

Amendment No. 1 to HB2744

Hargrove  
Signature of Sponsor

FILED

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_

Comm. Amdt. \_\_\_\_\_

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2719

House Bill No. 2744\*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by adding the following languages as a new section to be appropriately designated.

SECTION \_\_\_\_.

(a) As used in this section, "autism spectrum disorders" means neurological disorders, usually appearing in the first three (3) years of a person's life that affect normal brain functions and are typically manifested by impairments in communication and social interaction, as well as restrictive, repetitive, and stereotyped behaviors.

(b) A contract or policy of an insurer that provides benefits for neurological disorders, whether under an individual or group health insurance policy providing coverage on an expense-incurred basis, an individual or group service contract issued by a health maintenance organization, a self-insured group arrangement to the extent not preempted by federal law or a managed health care delivery entity of any type or description shall provide benefits and coverage for treatment of autism spectrum disorders that are at least as comprehensive as those provided for other neurological disorders. These benefits and coverage for treatment shall be provided to any person less than twelve (12) years of age.

(c) Benefits provided for treatment of autism spectrum disorders shall be subject to deductible and co-payment requirements and benefit limits which are

no more stringent than those established for the treatment of other neurological disorders.

(d) An insurer that provides benefits for neurological disorders shall not refuse to renew policies, reissue policies, or otherwise terminate or restrict services to a person solely because the person is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

(e) The provisions of this section shall not expand the type or scope of treatment beyond that authorized for any other diagnosed neurological disorder and shall be effective upon any contract, policy, or plan which is delivered, issued for delivery, amended or renewed on or after January 1, 2007.

(f) Nothing in this act shall apply to accident-only, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care, or other limited benefit hospital insurance policies.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.